

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 to 9, and 13 to 15 remain in the case.

Reconsideration of this Application and entry of the foregoing amendments are requested. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended in view of the Office Action and to better define what the Applicants consider their invention, as fully supported by an enabling disclosure. Claims 2-4 and 10-12 have been withdrawn and the remaining claims have been amended to correct clerical errors.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-2, 6-11 and 14-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103, first paragraph as being unpatentable over Maruo (6,259,809) in view of Bergman et al. (6,529,916). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection as follows.

Although Applicant believes that neither Maruo (6,259,809) nor Bergman et al. (6,529,916), alone or in combination, teach or even hint at a method as recited in the claims as examined, in order to expedite prosecution of the application, Applicant rewrites claims 4 and 12 as independent claims by incorporating the subject matter thereof in claims 1 and 9 respectively, and withdraws claims 2 to 4 and 10 to 12. Applicant consequently amends claims 5 and 13 to correct claim dependencies.

In view of the above and foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraws his rejection of claims 1-2, 6-11 and 14-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.


Applicant further amends the claims to correct clerical errors.

The rejections of the original claims are believed to have been overcome by the present amendment. From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such an action is earnestly solicited.

Authorization is hereby given to charge deposit account no. 07-1742 for any deficiencies or overages in connection with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

GOUDREAU GAGE DUBUC



Jean H. Dubuc
Reg. No. 26,374

Date: December 14, 2004